

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CARCASSES OF THE MORE COMMONLY LANDED FEDERALLY MANAGED SHARKS OF THE U.S. ATLANTIC AND GULF OF MEXICO

Directions:

- Step 1: Determine which of the three categories of carcass types shown to the right the subject specimen belongs to.
- Step 2: Locate the large picture in the colored section that matches the carcass type of the subject specimen.
- Step 3: Compare the subject specimen against each of the two distinct features shown.
- Step 4: Follow the most closely matching feature(s) until terminating with a species identification.

CARCASS TYPES



Prominent Caudal Keels
(Yellow Section—Below)

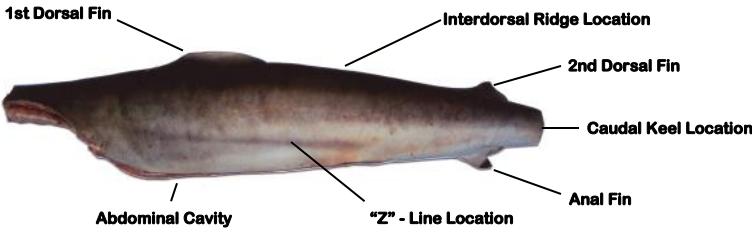


Interdorsal Ridge Present
(Green Section—Below)



Interdorsal Ridge Absent
(Blue Section—Reverse)

ANATOMY OF A CARCASS



Prominent Caudal Keels



Origin of 2nd dorsal fin over origin of anal fin

Porbeagle



Origin of 2nd dorsal fin forward of origin of anal fin



Underside of keels are snow white

Shortfin mako



Dark blotches on underside of keels



Dark anal fin

Longfin mako



Light anal fin

White shark

Interdorsal Ridge Present



No stripes on sides



Anal fin with light colored base and dark tip



Dusky tipped anal fin

Dusky shark



Anal fin with broad, round, very black tip

Caribbean reef shark

Silky shark

Bignose shark

Oceanic whitetip



Anal fin uniformly colored, Tip is not darker than base



Length of 2nd dorsal free rear tip about = to 2nd dorsal height

Sandbar shark



Length of 2nd dorsal free rear tip nearly 2 X 2nd dorsal height

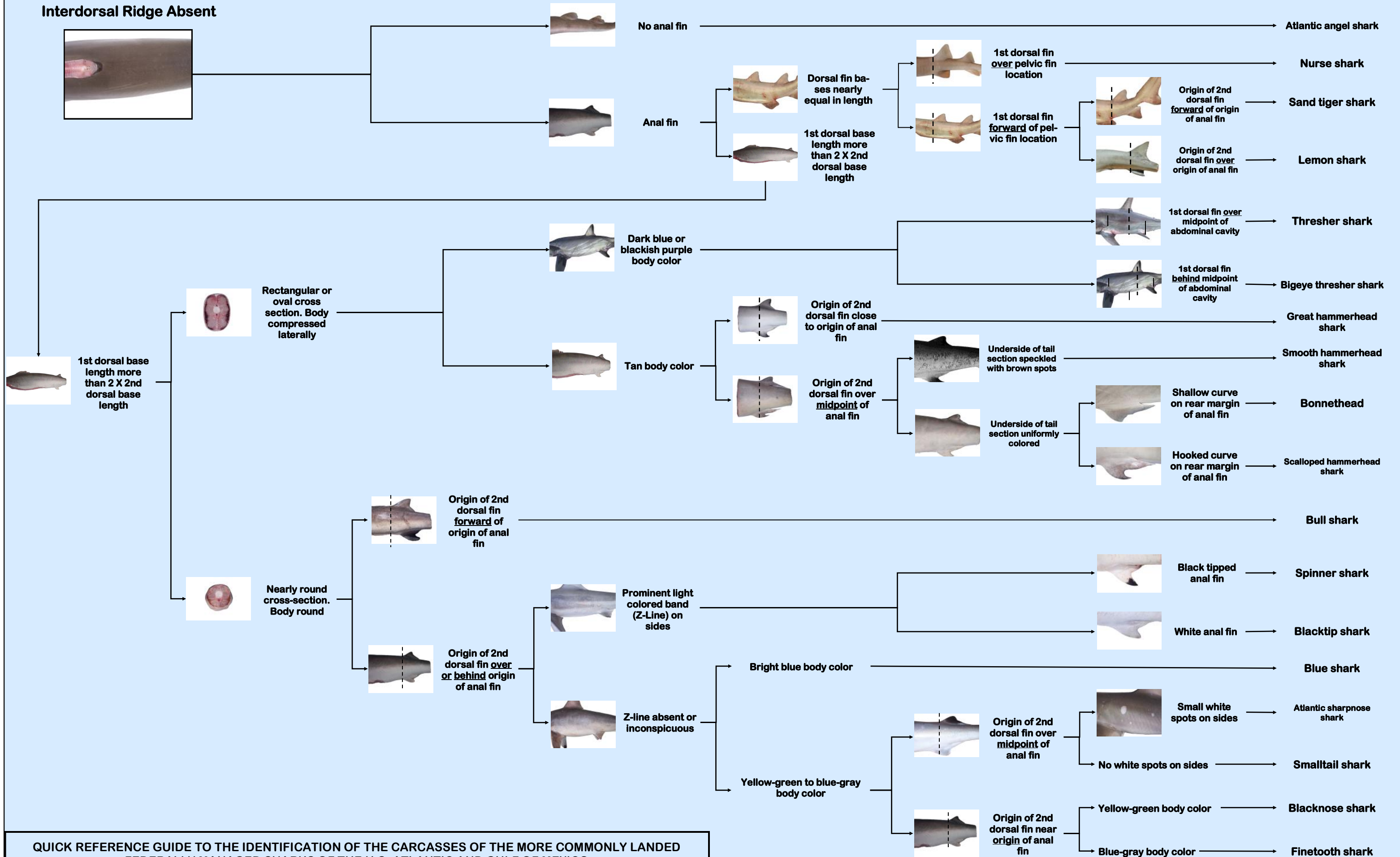
Night shark



Striped pattern on sides

Tiger shark

Interdorsal Ridge Absent



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